(ii) Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.

(iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254(2A) of the Income-tax Act.

(iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high demand cases expeditiously.

Reduction in customs duty on petroleum products

3752. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to reduce the customs duty on petroleum products in order to control the domestic prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Customs duty rates on petroleum products are prescribed taking into account all material factors including the interests of the consumers and the products. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to reduce customs duty on petroleum products.

Government's response to Sixth Pay Commission Report

3753. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) What is Government's response to the Sixth Pay Commission Report submitted recently;

(b) by when it is going to be implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that major trade unions in the country have opposed most of the recommendations in the Report; and

(d) if so, what are the recommendations which the trade unions have objections to and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Sixth Central Pay Commission's Report is under examination of the Government at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Service Tax as a factor behind inflation

†3754. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that one of the main causes of inflation is increasing rates of service tax;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.